

09/783308

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The microscope (2) is substantially similar to the configuration of a conventional microscope. The microscope (2) comprises a foot element (4) on which a column (6) sits. An arm (8) is mounted or shaped onto the column (6). Located in the vicinity of the front end (10) of the arm (8) is an optical unit (12) that defines an optical axis (16). One or more of the objectives (18) or (22) mounted on the revolving nosepiece (20) are configured as so-called "objectives for scanning electron microscopy" (electron beam objectives). The size of the electron beam objectives is comparable to the size of objectives for conventional microscopes. Because the objectives (18) and (22) are arranged on a revolving nosepiece (20), on a slider, or on another mechanical and/or electromechanical component, it is a quick and easy matter to change among different magnifications or illumination types.

(FIG. 1)